

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 868

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0381

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PRFOR, CG

SUBJECT: RUMORS

1. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR KERREMANS TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT GOVERNOR SAMBWA OF THE CENTRAL BANK IS UNDER ARREST. WE HAVE CONFIRMATION OF THIS OR OF OTHER RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL BOLELA OF FOREIGN MINISTRY IS ALSO UNDER ARREST. BUT BOTH WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION EKETEBI, AGAINST WHOM ATTORNEY GENERAL IS PROCEEDING AND WE ARE TOLD SEPARATELY THAT SAMBWA IS NOT GOING TO IMF MEETINGS THIS WEEK AS HAS BEEN EXPECTED.

2. SINCE FIRST OF YEAR WE HAVE ALSO BEEN HEARING SPORADIC COUP RUMORS. WE HAVE NOT REPORTED SINCE IN OUR JUDGEMENT, DESPITE FACT THAT RADICALIZATION MEASURES HAVE DISCOMFITED MANY MEMBERS OF ZAIRIAN ELITE, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO PRESENT POSSIBILITY OF COUP GIVEN MOBUTU'S BASIC POPULARITY, EFFECTIVE CHECKS AND BALANCES HE HAS CREATED WITHIN THE SYSTEM, AND HIS WELL-ORGANIZED DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE NETWORK.

3. SOME SOURCES SAY CAPTAIN GENERAL BUMBA REACTED STRONGLY TO PRESIDENT'S MEASURES TAKING BUSINESSES AWAY
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FROM OFFICERS AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT DATE WAS

HASTILY ARRANGED FOR BUMBA TO PROCEED WITH HIS LONG-
PLANNED TRIP TO RUMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND WEST GERMANY.
WHEN HE RETURNS, WE WILL BE ALERT TO SIGNS THAT HIS
STATUS OR LOYALTIES HAVE CHANGED.
HINTON

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NNN

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